search, and it gets a higher score). The software then ranks the results according to their fit to the query and presents the top 20 matches.

Aries Systems Corp. is offering phone and fax assistance as standard; in addition, the package is supported by an Internet home page at http://www.ariessys.com. The site offers useful information about the program, and there is a highly recommended option of ordering a free demonstration version of the search engine.

In conclusion, DermLine is an indispensable tool for a busy practitioner, a department, or research group. The package performs very well on a 486-equipped PC with a double-speed CD-ROM drive, although having to work with two CD's may be a minor drawback. The software is supported for both PC and MAC.

In spite of the not inconsiderable expense involved, I greatly recommend the use of this package.

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Immunology of Human Melanoma: Tumor-Host Interaction and Immunotherapy. Edited by Michele Maio, IOS Press, Amsterdam, 1996 (*233 pp., $95*)

Improved treatment options for advanced malignant melanoma are of great significance for clinicians who participate in the care of patients with this devastating disease. According to the American Cancer Society, about 38,300 new cases of melanoma will be diagnosed in the United States this year. Additionally, the rate of increase of melanoma is greater than that of any other cancer except lung cancer among women. Early melanoma is treated successfully with surgery, but the course of advanced disease is rarely improved by the traditional adjuvant therapies of radiation and chemotherapy. This lack of response to existing treatment options has fueled the efforts of basic researchers and clinicians to pursue other approaches for the treatment of melanoma. Immunotherapy has received a tremendous amount of interest. Basic research in melanoma immunology and immunotherapy has expanded rapidly in the last several years with important advances in our understanding of the induction of host immune responses against this neoplasm. These findings are in the early stages of translation into promising human treatment protocols.

This book, entitled "Immunology of Human Melanoma: Tumor-Host Interaction and Immunotherapy," edited by Michele Maio and published by IOS Press (Amsterdam), is an outstanding review of the current status of our understanding of immune mechanisms that regulate melanoma progression and interaction with the host immune system. Importantly, the book also presents an up-to-date review of ongoing clinical immunotherapy trials including some previously unpublished results. The book is divided into four sections that cover critical aspects of melanoma immunobiology that have shaped this field in recent years.

The first three sections of the book provide an excellent summary of recent experimental trends in melanoma immunology. Section 1 describes the role of adhesion molecules and cytokines in the local growth and metastatic progression of melanoma cells *in vivo*. The second section deals with the role of HLA antigens and accessory molecules in the induction of effector cytotoxic cell responses. The third section discusses the rapidly expanding field of tumor antigen recognition. Chapters within this section describe newly recognized melanoma-associated antigens and their antigenic peptides, such as those coded by the MAGE family of genes, and the functional role of these T cell-restricted antigens in the development of novel immunotherapeutic approaches for melanoma patients.

The final section describes ongoing clinical immunotherapy trials at selected research and clinical facilities both in Europe and the United States. These clinical trials utilizing antiidiotypic antibodies, tumor cell vaccines, peptide vaccines, and gene transfer are representative of the types of clinical immunotherapy efforts currently in progress. This section, however, does not provide a comprehensive view of clinical immunotherapy approaches, because all of the trials selected in this section are based on active specific immunotherapy. Furthermore, as in any review of ongoing research efforts, the studies of some well-known investigators are not included. Even so, this section does provide an excellent overview of the types of clinical trials that currently generate the promise of improved success in the treatment of human melanoma.

The depth and range of melanoma immunology brought together by Michele Maio in this book will make it a valuable reference for both new and experienced investigators in this field as well as those in other areas of tumor biology. Additionally, the clear clinical focus of the book will benefit clinicians with an interest in the state of the art of experimental immunotherapy approaches for the treatment of advanced melanoma.

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